

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and having a surface [region] facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port, at least the entire region of said ink absorbing member at said surface facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port being compressed so as to change the porosity of said region relative to at least another region of said ink absorbing member.

106 ~~23~~. (Twice Amended) An [The] ink-supply system [of claim 25, wherein] for a dot matrix printer comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and having a region facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port being compressed relative to at least another region of said ink absorbing member, said ink absorbing member [carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the designed capacity of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface].

107 ~~24~~. (Amended) The ink supply system of claim ¹⁰⁶ ~~33~~, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall

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surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

85 25. (Twice Amended) An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member substantially filling said ink-supply tank and being formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

88 41. (Twice Amended) An [The] ink-supply system [of claim 39, wherein] for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member, said ink absorbing member [carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in

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said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the designed capacity of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface].

89⁸⁸ 45. (Amended) The ink supply system of claim ⁸⁸41, said ink supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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91⁸⁸ 45. (Amended) The ink-supply system of claim ⁸⁸41, [wherein said projections are formed in] and including an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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58⁴⁸ 48. (Twice Amended) An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer head comprising:

- an ink-supply tank;
- an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material contained within said ink-supply tank; and
- means projecting into said ink-supply tank and formed with an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member for delivery to said printer head, said ink absorbing member having a [region] surface facing said opening, at least the entire region of said ink absorbing member at said surface facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means being compressed so as to change the porosity of said region relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

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70⁵⁶ 56. (Twice Amended) An [The] ink supply system [of claim 48, wherein] for a dot matrix printer head comprising:

- an ink-supply tank;

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an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material contained within said ink-supply tank, said ink absorbing member [carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the designed capacity of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface]; and

means projecting into said ink-supply tank and formed with an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member for delivery to said printer head, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means being compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

71 57. (Amended) The ink supply system of claim ⁷⁰ 56, said ink supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

72 58. (Twice Amended) An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

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an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member substantially filling the ink-supply tank and being formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is

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compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

77⁶⁵. (Twice Amended) An [The] ink-supply system [of claim 63, wherein] for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member, said ink absorbing member [carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the designed capacity of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface].

78⁶⁶. (Amended) The ink supply system of claim ⁷⁷65, said ink supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

80⁶⁸. (Amended) The ink-supply system of claim ⁷⁷65, [wherein said projections are formed in] and including an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

37⁷⁵. (Twice Amended) A dot matrix printer comprising:

printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and having a surface [region] facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port, at least the entire region of said ink absorbing member at said surface facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port being compressed so as to change the porosity of said region relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

49~~85~~. (Twice Amended) A [The] dot matrix printer [of claim 75, wherein] comprising:

printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and having a region facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port being compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member, said ink absorbing member [carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when

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said ink-supply tank is filled to the [desired] designed capacity of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface].

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50 ~~24~~. (Amended) The dot matrix printer of claim ~~83~~, said ink supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

28 ~~29~~. (Twice Amended) A dot matrix printer, comprising:
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

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an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member substantially filling said ink-supply tank and being formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region forming said opening and being compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

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31 ~~21~~. (Twice Amended) A [The] dot matrix printer [of claim 90, wherein] comprising:

printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region forming said opening and being compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member, said ink absorbing member [carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the designed capacity of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface].

32 ³¹ 22. (Amended) The dot matrix printer of claim 31, said ink supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

34 ³¹ 24. (Amended) The dot matrix printer of claim 31, [wherein said projections are formed in] and including an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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198. (Twice Amended) A dot matrix printer comprising:
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to
effect printing; and
an ink supply means for delivering ink to said
printing means comprising:
an ink-supply tank;
an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material
contained within said ink-supply tank; and
means projecting into said ink-supply tank and
formed with an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said
ink absorbing member for delivery to said printer head, said ink
absorbing member having a [region] surface facing said opening, at
least the entire region of said ink absorbing member of said
surface facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting
means being compressed so as to change the porosity of said region
relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

Q17
13406. (Twice Amended) A [The] dot matrix printer [of
claim 98, wherein] comprising:
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to
effect printing; and
an ink supply means for delivering ink to said
printing means comprising:
an ink-supply tank;
an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material
contained within said ink-supply tank, said ink absorbing member
[carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply
tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the designed capacity
of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner
wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink
absorbing member and said wall surface]; and

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means projecting into said ink-supply tank and formed with an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member for delivery to said printer head, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening, at least the region of said ink absorbing member facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means being compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

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14 ~~107~~. (Amended) The dot matrix printer of claim ~~106~~,
said ink supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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15 ~~112~~. (Twice Amended) A dot matrix printer, comprising:
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member substantially filling said ink-supply tank and being formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member.

26 ~~120~~. (Twice Amended) A [The] dot matrix printer [of claim 112, wherein] comprising:

printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from said ink-supply tank; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank, said ink absorbing member having a region facing said opening and being compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port so that at least the region of the ink absorbing member facing said opening is compressed relative to at least another region of the ink absorbing member, said ink absorbing member [carries] carrying substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the designed capacity of the ink-supply tank[, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface].

27 ~~121~~. (Amended) The dot matrix printer of claim ²⁶~~120~~, said ink supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

108 125. (Twice Amended) A method for supplying ink to a dot matrix printer comprising:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material within an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from the ink-supply tank;

compressing said ink absorbing member relative to at least another region thereof at least in the entire region [of] at a surface of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port so as to change the porosity of said compressed region; and

withdrawing ink from said ink-supply tank through the opening in said ink-supply delivery port.

113 127. (Twice Amended) A [The] method [of claim 125, and including] for supplying ink to a dot matrix printer comprising the steps of:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material within an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from the ink-supply tank, said ink absorbing member being selected to substantially fill the ink-supply tank;

compressing said ink absorbing member relative to at least another region thereof at least in the region of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port; and

providing a space between at least an inner wall surface of the ink-supply tank and the ink absorbing member, and including the further step of providing ambient air to said space;

withdrawing ink from said ink-supply tank through the opening in said ink-supply delivery port.

114 ~~128~~. (Twice Amended) A [The] method [of claim 125, including the further step of] for supplying ink to a dot matrix printer comprising the steps of:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material within an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port having an opening for the passage of ink from the ink-supply tank;

applying ink to said ink-supply tank so that said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink that said ink-supply tank was designed to hold;

compressing said ink absorbing member relative to at least another region thereof at least in the region of said ink absorbing member facing said opening of said ink-supply delivery port; and

withdrawing ink from said ink-supply tank through the opening in said ink-supply delivery port.

5/ ~~122~~. (Twice Amended) A method for supplying ink for a dot matrix printer comprising:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within an ink-supply tank and substantially filling the ink-supply tank;

providing means projecting into said ink-supply tank and having an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member;

compressing said ink absorbing member relative to at least another region thereof at least in the region of the ink absorbing member facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means; and

withdrawing said ink from said ink-supply tank through the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means.

56-~~34~~. (Twice Amended) A [The] method [of claim 32, and including] for supplying ink for a dot matrix printer comprising the steps of:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within an ink-supply tank;

providing means projecting into said ink-supply tank and having an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member;

providing a space between at least an inner wall surface of the ink-supply tank and the ink absorbing member, and including the further step of providing ambient air to said space;

compressing said ink absorbing member relative to at least another region thereof at least in the entire region at the surface of the ink absorbing member facing the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means so as to change the porosity of the compressed region; and

withdrawing said ink from said ink-supply tank through the opening of said ink receiving and transmitting means.

57-~~35~~. (Twice Amended) A [The] method [of claim 132, including the further step of] for supplying ink for a dot matrix printer comprising:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within an ink-supply tank;

applying ink to said ink-supply tank so that said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink that said ink-supply tank was designed to hold;

providing means projecting into said ink-supply tank and having an opening for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member;